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Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Senior Director of Academic Computing Services, continues to provide you with updates on campus computing. This month you'll find out more about UNT and Internet 2 and a possible \$1.5M Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Grant. There is also a blurb on this page about administrative mainframe system availability during Spring Break and Help Desk hours during that time.

[New Student E-mail Server Move Postponed](#)

We reported in last month's *Benchmarks Online* that the Computing Center's Academic Computing Services UNIX group would be migrating all E-mail accounts to a faster and more powerful system in the latter part of February. Unfortunately the best laid plans of mice, men, and the UNIX Services group went awry. Read this article to find out why.

[Student Computing Forum](#)

The General Access Lab Managers Committee will hold its first Student Computing Forum next month. The forum will create another venue for students to provide input on lab policies and procedures. Read this article and find out the details.

[GroupWise 5.2: When You're Away](#)

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Did you know you can access your GroupWise mail from anywhere in the world? Find out how in this article.

[Computer Virus News](#)

Have you thought much about computer viruses lately? Read this article to find out why you might not have to feel guilty for answering "no" much longer.

[Maximizing Your Hits](#)

This article will help you lead more people to your Web pages from UNT's search engine. You will also learn about the new search feature for *Benchmarks Online* on this page.

[Cold Fusion Web Applications at UNT](#)

Cold Fusion is a reality here at UNT. Intrigued?
-- click on the title above and keep reading.

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RSS Matters

By [Craig Henderson](#), Research and Statistical Support Services

New Generations of Statistical Applications

As the clock clicks closer to the next millennium, we are reminded that we have to face a new generation of computers and software applications. Yes, they are here! This article continues with a series begun last month in which we introduce the new wave of "next generation" statistical packages. We continue in this issue with SPSS 9.0. Let's first examine what we have received lately:

Most Current Versions of Statistical Applications at RSS

Stat. Application	Windows 95/NT	Mac	UNIX
SPSS	9.0 *	6.1	6.13 #
SAS	7.0 * #	6.12 TS040	7.0 #
S-Plus	4.5	-	5.0 #

red font - newly arrived

* under evaluation

to be installed

SPSS 9.0

An overall evaluation of any comprehensive computer package is difficult to approach. It seems like I am always learning new things, even about packages that I have used extensively for long periods of time. However, I will do my best in providing a brief overview, while attending to new features.

This review assumes that readers have some experience with SPSS for Windows. If you are familiar with SPSS 7.5 and 8.0, great! Not much has changed. In fact, in my opinion, SPSS has done few major changes since they stopped using ASCII output and went to using an object-oriented approach. Another brief, general comment is that SPSS appears to have accepted a model-based approach to statistical analysis (e.g., focus on general and generalized linear models). For example, the documentation provided by SPSS includes a manual on regression models and one on advanced models. This appears to reflect the approach of the field of data analysis in general, focusing on applications of models as opposed to focusing on specific statistical procedures.

My final general impression is that SPSS continues to move in a direction to support more business-oriented applications as opposed to developing more statistical routines. That being said, I find SPSS a very useful product, and I find some of the new developments timely and helpful.

New Directions

As mentioned above, SPSS 9.0 appears to be moving toward business applications. It appears to be particularly committed to Report On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) and the SmartViewer Web Server. The impetus behind these developments is to provide a medium in which organizations can create and distribute information accessible by a Web browser that is searchable and editable. OLAP cubes contain information in SPSS table format, but the user can control how that information is displayed.

For example, in examining the relationship between happiness and region of the United States, SPSS creates the table below by default:

OLAP Cubes

Region of the United States: Total

	Sum	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	% of Total Sum	% of Total N
General Happiness	2706	1504	1.80	.62	100.0%	100.0%

However, information is stored in the cube by each region of the United States. To access this information, the researcher can work with the cube in the SPSS Pivot Table window, examining the relationship for each region of the United States (e.g., the West):

OLAP Cubes

Region of the United States: West

	Sum	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	% of Total Sum	% of Total N
General Happiness	749	420	1.78	.61	27.7%	27.9%

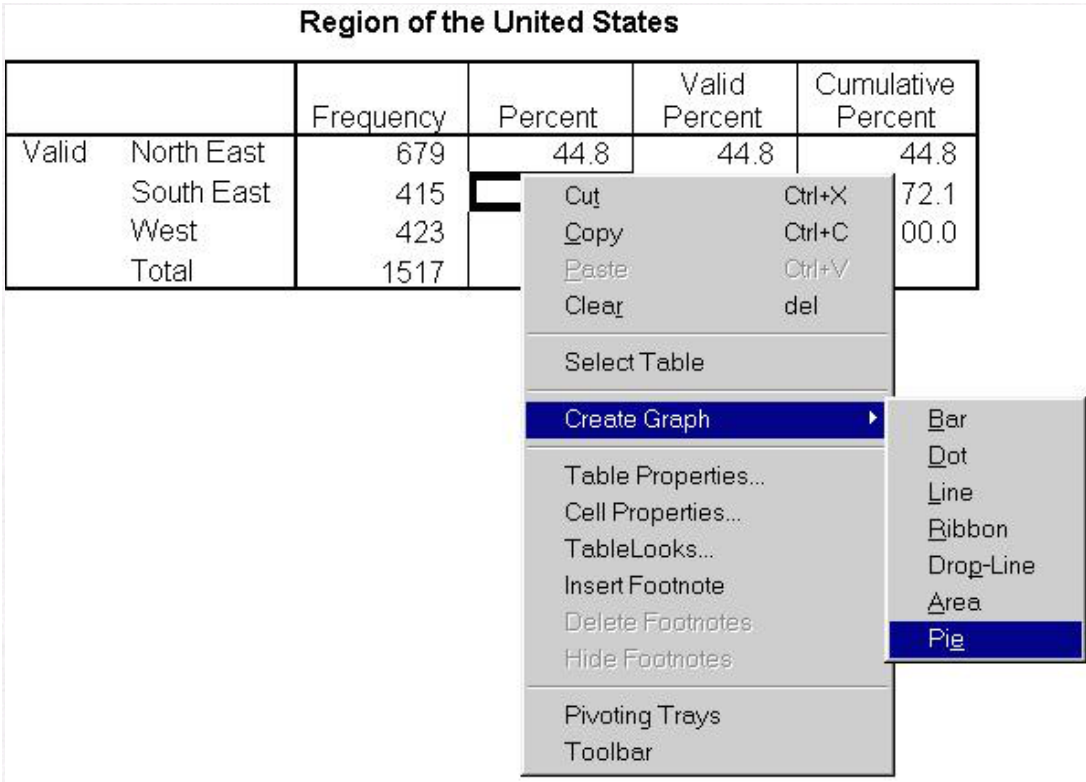
As you can plainly see, the California sunshine is vastly overrated.

The Smart Viewer Web Server enables the user to conveniently post this information on the Web, while making tables searchable and editable. These features seem ideal for a business environment, in which users could access and edit information conveniently over the Internet or an intranet; however, the utility appears limited for academic environments. For example, the information that can be presented in an OLAP cube is limited to summary statistics and graphs. Please see the following URLs for more information: <http://www.spss.com/reportOLAP>, <http://www.spss.com/software/spss/sviewer/Web/>.

Expanded Graphical Capabilities

SPSS 9.0 expands the graphical capabilities that first became available with the interactive graphics module on version 8.0. Stacked bar charts and area graphs are now available in the interactive graphics module, and multiple response variables can now be graphed in a line graph for instance. SPSS 9.0 Interactive Graphs and Pivot Tables now allow a user to easily convert tables to graphs and vice versa, just right mouse click on the pivot table (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Converting Pivot Table to Graph in SPSS 9.0.

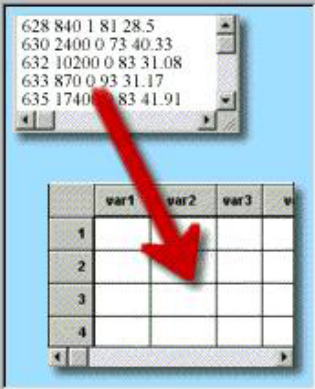


Data Access

Reading in ASCII or text data becomes much easier with SPSS 9.0. SPSS 9.0 entails the use of a Text Wizard similar to Excel (See [Figure 2](#)). This relieves the user from having to read in ASCII data with the rather tedious procedure of specifying variable names and column numbers (in the case of fixed column data entry). In addition, the database capture option in SPSS 9.0 works quite well. With this feature, you can import your Access or Fox Pro databases with little difficulty. Database capture was also available in SPSS 8.0; however, I found it to be very unstable. I do not know if this is something unique to my machine or if the procedure has been improved in SPSS 9.0. SPSS 9.0 also allows the user to directly access powerful databases such as Oracle and Essbase.

Figure 2. Read Text Data Option in SPSS 9.0

Text Import Wizard - Step 1 of 6



Welcome to the text import wizard!

This wizard will help you read data from your text file and specify information about the variables.

Does your text file match a predefined format?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Text file:

0 10 20 30 40 50

	Date	Month	Station	Rep	Zone	Rotif	Arthro	Clado	Calan	Cyclo
1	21-Aug-96	Aug-96	101	RRZ	42.75	07.25	01.75	0102.50	2020160000	
2	21-Aug-96	Aug-96	102	RRZ	115.50	39.75	0904.50	11.25	0150201600	
3	21-Aug-96	Aug-96	103	RRZ	079031.55	08.05	02.50	08013020160000	.4	

Text Import Wizard - Step 6 of 6

	var1	var2	var3	v
1	628	840	1	
2	638	2400	0	
3	632	10200	0	
4	633	870	0	

You have successfully defined the format of your text file.

Would you like to save this file format for future use?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Save As...

Would you like to paste the syntax?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Press the Finish button to complete the text import wizard.

Data preview

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7
Date	Month	Station	Rep	Zone	Rotif	Arthro
21-Aug-96	Aug-96	1	1	RRZ	42.75	7.25
21-Aug-96	Aug-96	1	2	RRZ	115.5	39.75
21-Aug-96	Aug-96	1	3	RRZ	79	31.55

< Back

Next >

Finish

Cancel

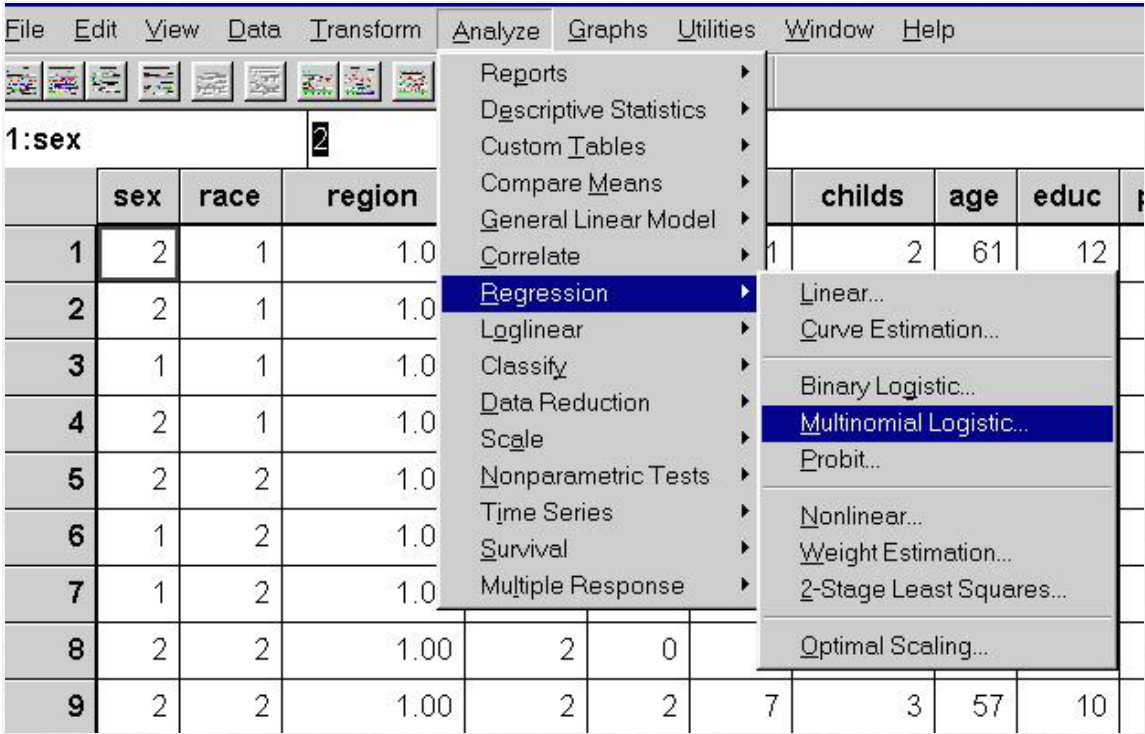
Help

New Statistical Procedures

SPSS 9.0 has some new statistical procedures available; however, the development of these applications is limited. The most substantial change is that SPSS now does multinomial logit, or multinomial logistic regression if you prefer. It was somewhat bothersome with SPSS 8.0 to be restricted to a dichotomous outcome variable when doing a logistic regression. This is located under the regression menu (see [Figure 3](#)). Other Statistical procedures added to SPSS 9.0 include:

- Receiver-Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve analysis
- The Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel statistic is available in Crosstabs. This allows a user to test the significance of a 2x2 contingency table, covarying for a third dichotomous categorical variable.
- PROXSCAL is an alternative multidimensional scaling program available with Categories 9.0.2. This update is available with SPSS Categories 9.0. We will be making this available when we install SPSS 9.0 on the network servers.
- Conjoint analysis is included as a separate module, SPSS 9.0 Conjoint Analysis (see more about this in an upcoming *Benchmarks Online* Article).

Figure 3. Multinomial Logistic Regression in SPSS 9.0



Conclusion

As mentioned previously, SPSS 9.0 has several new developments. However, my opinion is that most of these developments are more useful for a business context, and will find limited use in an academic setting. My hope is that in future releases, that SPSS will introduce more data analytic methods, such as more graphical capabilities for exploratory data analysis, the ability to do hierarchical linear modeling, and more robust methods. However, in my opinion, SPSS's strength has been and continues to be ease of use. The features that have made it so easy to use, such as the spreadsheet format for SPSS system files, the option to paste syntax to the syntax window, and the intuitive Windows-based point-and-click approach remain with version 9.0, and it is the ease of use that brings me back to using SPSS for most of my data analyses. I hope that you have found this review useful; we will be making SPSS 9.0 available on network servers soon. Following installation on the servers, we will release the CD for personal installation for faculty members. Please contact me at 565-2140 or by E-mail at craigh@unt.edu if I can be of assistance in your data analysis.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

The Changing Internet

Have you done any archie searches lately? What's your favorite Gopher server? Have you found any good new WAIS document collections? Seen any interesting discussion threads on your favorite Internet BBS system? Do you have any idea what I am talking about? If not, chances are you've only used the Internet for a couple of years. As recently as eight years ago, however, these programs were the hottest things going on the Internet.

If you've had the opportunity to observe it, you can sense that Internet technology has changed as much in the last ten years as automobile technology has changed in the last 100 years, and the Internet is still changing. It was only about four years ago that dialing into the Internet from home became a common activity, but we treat the Internet as if it is a long-standing, well-established technology. As the last ten years has illustrated, this is far from the case. Treating the Internet as a stable technology is unwise for those who support such technology or make long-term financial investments in it.

Some Internet Staples

At least some things about the Internet don't change. After all, E-mail was one of the first applications on the Internet and it is still one of the most used Internet services. E-mail technology remains basically unchanged since its inception, with the exception of a standard for sending multimedia attachments (MIME). E-mail programs have become fancier thanks to the graphical capabilities of personal computer operating systems, but the E-mail itself remains a text message body with a standard header to route it over the Internet.

E-mail mailing lists (LISTSERV lists) are also still thriving on today's Internet. Ironically enough, LISTSERV was originally written as a BITNET application, but its usefulness has sustained it and its imitators long after the demise of BITNET as a network.* The popularity and utility of mailing lists reflects the popularity and utility of E-mail. After all, a mailing list is just an e-mail network (in the original sense of the word).

Ftp and telnet remain unreplaced in the arena of Internet applications, however, they are not as commonly used now as they were originally. Our favorite World Wide Web browser has replaced our ftp client, and most people don't have the need to establish terminal sessions with remote computers anymore. Most of our current interaction with remote computers is done with our local personal computer acting as a specialized client, and most of our client activity is accomplished through our Web browser.

It is interesting, however, that these three core technologies of the original Internet remain at its core today. The only major enhancement looming for these is the addition of encryption technology to guard against unintended or unauthorized eavesdropping. Until the technology of the Internet changes, it is likely that E-mail, ftp, and telnet will remain useful tools.

Where Have all the Rodents Gone?

What happened to archie, VERONICA, JUGHEAD, WAIS, FreeNet BBS, and Gopher?

They have all been replaced or subsumed by "the Web." Basically, they've been squeezed out by a better idea. At one time, thousands of Gopher servers dotted the Internet landscape, but these days, you'd be hard pressed to find just one. Gopher servers were easy to install and maintain and didn't require documents to be formatted in any special way. But the life of Gopher as a technology just exists as a flash in the pan of Internet history. Gopher servers could provide text, graphics, and other types of resources, but lacked the one important capability that its rival had all along.

The World Wide Web protocol can combine media in one unified presentation and all it took was a little time for multimedia technologies to be supported on personal computers before the Web took over as the dominant Internet technology. If the folks who started Netscape hadn't realized the power of this concept, someone else would have eventually. Even the Web is constantly changing, with new technologies being provided in each new software release or with newly developed "plugins" that work in coordination with browser software.

The Winds of Change

It is evident that the Internet is not "done." To borrow from the Lipton folks, it's not soup yet. It's a pretty good broth, but nowhere near it's potential or eventual development. It seems that one untapped area is sending video in large quantities over the Internet. This includes originating our own video from the inexpensive camera that is attached to or integrated into our personal computer (if you don't have one yet, just wait).

It's hard to make predictions about the Internet because it's hard to judge what forces will effect its development at any one time. It seems that the current economic boom has provided resources for both the development and personal use of the Internet. Other forces could stifle or promote Internet development. The climate of competition certainly has an effect. It was a totally free market of competition that killed Gopher. If Microsoft had been early in the Internet market, would MS-Gopher 2000 be the current standard?

It is yet unknown what effect Internet 2 will have on the developing Internet or even if Internet 2 will have a chance to influence development (see the [Network Connection](#) column in last month's issue of [Benchmarks](#)). By the time Internet 2 gets very far off the ground, commercial forces swirling around the current Internet may make Internet 2 an irrelevant academic experiment. Only time will tell. In the mean time, keep a careful eye on those Internet technology stocks.

* UNT [dropped BITNET](#) in 1995.

Comments, Questions? Send them to [Philip Baczewski](#).

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List of the Month

Each month we highlight one Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list.

JavaScript Source News

JavaScript Source News is a free JavaScript Newsletter. The newsletter is sent out monthly to let you know of new JavaScripts, major site-related announcements, and other important information related to [The JavaScript Source](#).

To subscribe, send the following command in the BODY of mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.INTERNET.COM:

SUBSCRIBE JAVASCRIPTSOURCE-NEWS *yourfirstname yourlastname*

For example: SUBSCRIBE JAVASCRIPTSOURCE-NEWS Michael Jones

If you experience any trouble joining or signing off from this mailing list, you can contact the list editor by sending an E-mail to JAVASCRIPTSOURCE-NEWS-request@listserv.internet.com or through <http://e-newsletters.internet.com/javascriptsource.html>

List owner: Ronnie Moore RMOORE@INTERNET.COM

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JavaScript and Java: "Kissing Cousins"

I thought that in this month's [www@unt.edu](#), I would try to remove some of the confusion surrounding the JavaScript and Java programming languages. First let's get something straight, JavaScript is not Java and Java is not JavaScript. They are two entirely different languages.

JavaScript*

JavaScript was originally created by Netscape as an object-oriented scripting language that could be used to give Web developers more control over their Web pages. With JavaScript it is possible to validate form information before sending it to the server. You can put a scrolling marquee on your Web page or you can do image rollovers, like we do on the UNT homepage. If you are a really cutting edge Web developer, you can use JavaScript to add many different effects using Dynamic HTML.

JavaScript, however, has now moved beyond the browser into a standard object-oriented scripting language. It has become standardized through the European Computer Manufacturers Association (ECMA). The standardized version of the language is called ECMA-Script. Microsoft has implemented their own version called Jscript (though it mostly conforms with Netscape's version, so scripts for Communicator usually run in Internet Explorer). In Windows 2000 you will even be able to automate Windows tasks with JavaScript using the Windows Scripting Host.

As part of the [Mozilla opensource project](#), Netscape has released the source code for the JavaScript engine. This means that if you are building an application and want to add a scripting tool to allow your users the ability to automate tasks inside your application, you can now use JavaScript as that scripting tool. When you do this, your users will be able to automate this application using a language they are already likely to be familiar with. There are already examples of where companies have done this with success.

[Macromedia Dreamweaver](#) is a Web development tool for very advanced users, specifically for creating dynamic Web sites. When you create dynamic sites, you must make heavy use of JavaScript. If you were to code this by hand, you would either lose your mind or get a good case of carpal tunnel syndrome. Dreamweaver allows you to do this with drag and drop (though you can code by hand, Dreamweaver in many ways shows you how you should write a visual development tool), with "behaviors". You can add your own behaviors and automate repetitive tasks in Dreamweaver by using JavaScript. Adobe will be adding support for JavaScript for their update to the popular [Adobe Acrobat](#) reader. With JavaScript and Acrobat you will be able to actually fill out a form in the PDF file (PDF is Adobe's file format) and submit that form to a Web server.

Java

The Java programming language was developed by [Sun Microsystems](#), originally as a language for developing applications for hand-held devices and "set-top" boxes like [WebTV](#). When the Web appeared, Sun transformed the language into a development tool for adding more sophisticated environment to your Web sites without plugins.

Java's key phrase is "Write Once, Run Anywhere". What this means is that Java is platform independent. You can compile (e.g. turn the program into executable code) on one machine and run it on any other machine, regardless of its operating system, as long as the operating system has a Java Virtual Machine.

There are three types of Java programs. One is an applet and is designed to run only inside of a Web browser. The second type of program is a servlet which is a program designed only to run in conjunction with a Web server. The third type is an application which can run outside of a browser or a server, just like a traditional application like Microsoft Word.

Unfortunately the original Java that appeared in Web browsers didn't work very well (in particular the graphical user interface elements) and the security restrictions the browser placed on the applets, really hampered what they could do. Plus many people believed Java was too slow.

Java has really made strides past this early version, but browser support still lags behind. Java on the server, in the form of Java servlets and Java server applications have really gained momentum. With the recent release of Java 2, I think Java applications will see a boom because you can now write a very good looking GUI and with 400 MHZ PCs becoming common, speed is not an issue.

They Meet, They Kiss ...

Now that we know they are separate languages, they do have some similarities. JavaScript's syntax is highly derivative of Java's which means they do look about the same in terms of the code you type. However, JavaScript is a weakly typed language, and Java is strongly typed. What this means is that a JavaScript variable can store a number, a string or a JavaScript object, in the same script! In Java, a variable is required to be of only one type (e.g. a number, a string or any other valid Java object).

Both Netscape and IE "LiveConnect," which gives the ability for JavaScript to communicate with Java applets. In Netscape your Java applets can also communicate with JavaScript (IE 4 supports this too, but it's not documented so use at your own risk).

In another twist, someone has written a JavaScript interpreter that runs inside of Java, so if you write a Java application, you can make JavaScript your scripting language!

Until next time.

Mark

* If you are interested in JavaScript you might want to subscribe to the newsletter highlighted in this month's [List of the Month](#).

Resources:

[Netscape JavaScript Central](#)

[Sun's Official Java site](#)

[The Fesi \(pronounced "fuzzy"\) JavaScript engine for Java](#)

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Editor*

Spring Short Courses started February 4. There is still time up to sign up for classes in Mapping Data Using SAS and Excel, SPSS Programming, and Creating a Homepage with FrontPage. Follow [this link](#) for course descriptions and registration.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#).

CBT in April

There will be a series of **computer based training courses** offered in the SLIS Computer Classroom (ISB 203) next month. The topics covered include Word 97, Excel 97, PowerPoint 97, Access 97, Outlook 97, FrontPage 97, and Windows 95. There will be a lab facilitator available to help you get started and answer any questions you may have. The dates and times are:

- Tuesday, April 6 -- 2-5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 8 -- 9 a.m.-Noon
- Tuesday, April 13 -- 9 a.m.-Noon
- Thursday, April 15 -- 2-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 20 -- 9 a.m.-Noon
- Thursday, April 22 -- 9 a.m.-Noon

If you would like further information about these courses or wish to register, contact Human Resources Training at 565-4246 or send mail to [Tammy Coffey](#).

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning is offering courses especially for Faculty Members. Topics include Windows 95, PowerPoint, Video Conferencing, and a series of classes concerning putting course materials on the World Wide Web using WebCT.

UNT Libraries'

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab is also offering free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage 98 and information architecture. Training will be held on Fridays from 1-4 p.m. through May 7 in the Willis Library Learning Center. For more information visit the Multimedia Development Lab's home page at <http://www.library.unt.edu/mmdl>.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available through the Campus-Wide Networks division of the Computing Center. Some of the [seminars](#), such as one on disaster recovery/business continuity planning techniques, may be of interest to others on campus as well.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. There are also handouts for computer training (Microsoft Office 97 and Windows 95) on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 -- Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Info on GroupWise for Win3.1
- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to Excel 97
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)
- Using Netscape Communicator and the UNT Home Page

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IRC News

**Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary**



IRC Regular Voting Members: Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Walter Bowen, Academic Administration; Bill Buntain, Communications Program Group; Sue Byron, Faculty Senate; Carolyn Cunningham, Student Affairs; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Allen Livingston, Graduate Student Council; Dennis Mueller, Research Program Group (on Sabbatical); Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Jon Nelson, College of Music and Standards & Cooperation Program Group; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Steve Oeffner, UNT Health Science Center Russ Pensyl, School of Visual Arts; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Jim Poirot College of Education; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group (acting for Dennis Mueller who is on Sabbatical); Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Neal Tate, University Planning Council; Philip Turner, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for Distance Education and Dean of the School of Library and Information Resources (Chair, IRC); Virginia Wheeless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Leslie Bowden, Telecommunications; Wil Clark, GALMAC; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Michael Forster, UNT Health Science Center; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 1/99]

January 19, 1999

IR Steering Committee

The Chair reported that the IR Steering Committee met, at which time he and Richard Harris presented the Internet 2 proposal that was approved at the December IRC meeting. The Steering Committee approved this proposal, but did not give the source of funding.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the Distributed Computing Support Management Team met and discussed the campus-wide roll out of Novell Netware 5.0. The committee is planning the roll out sometime in the summer.

Y2K Code Conversion

Coy Hoggard reported that the Y2K code conversion of the SIMS product was completed around December 1st. During December, up to the holidays, the end users tested the system to see if there were any problems. Problems encountered were corrected and the system was successfully tested during the holidays. The remediated software is being used for registration now. Coy added that the problems with the Apple MAC users was determined not to be connected with the SIMS conversion.

Communications Program Group

Bill Buntain did not have a report from the Communications Program Group. He said the

group is scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss streaming video to remote users, and to work on the Internet 2 proposal. He also announced that there is a new UNT home page. There is also a new CBT Systems Web Client, which is much faster than the old one. The Library has indicated that they would like some additional CBT titles, to Bill is in contact with CBT to obtain the new titles.

Administrative Program Group

Joneel Harris expressed her appreciation for Coy Hoggard's and the Computing Center's work in converting the SIMS system to Y2K compliance. The Administrative Program Group has not met since before the holidays, but they will meet soon to discuss Phase 2 of Y2K testing.

Research Program Group

Mark Rorvig stated that the Research Program Group has been focused on the Internet 2 proposal. They have created a web site to document various activities, and initially the web site will be used to gather meritorious applications for the Internet 2 grant. He thanked Bill Buntain, Mike Maner and Maurice Leatherbury for their assistance in working on the grant. Rorvig explained that meritorious projects are any research projects that need to use or now use high band-width networks or could benefit from use of high band-width. Examples of meritorious, as well as educational applications, are provided on the web site.

Membership Change

The Chair announced that Paul Dworak has resigned from the IRC, and Jon Nelson is his replacement from the College of Music. Jon will also serve on the Standards & Cooperation Program Group and that group will elect a new chair, since Paul had also served in that capacity.

Distributed Learning Team

The Chair announced that the steering committee for the Distributed Learning Team met for a very constructive meeting. Since Patrick Pluscht did not attend that meeting, Dr. Turner asked Jenny Jopling to report. Jenny Jopling explained that the steering committee is made up of sub-committees: 1) Administration; 2) Faculty support; 3) Student support; and 4) Infrastructure. At the most recent meeting the committee worked on guidelines for approval of distributed learning courses, based on standards of good practice. The committee discussed an approval process to approve electronically-based courses and programs in Texas, as a result of a new ruling by the Coordinating Board to pass that responsibility down to the institutions. The ruling is that courses can be approved at the Vice President level, and programs can be approved at the Provost level, then by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents. This new process does not change any of the process already in place for new courses or programs; this process is applicable to existing programs and courses which have become distributed learning courses or programs. Further, this process only applies to masters' and undergraduate level courses, not doctoral courses.

Dr. Turner commented that this process should shorten the approval time for courses and programs.

Jenny Jopling added that once course approval is in place, if the course or program needs assistance in putting the courses on the Web, the Administrative group came up with a document for resource allocation to use the services of the Center for Distributed Learning.

The faculty support group came up with a possible form for evaluating distributed courses in general, not faculty, just course delivery. The infrastructure subcommittee has distributed a survey to the various colleges and schools asking what kind of in-house support they have for distributed learning.

Jenny also reported that the two instructional consultants in the Center are spending about 30% of their time supporting Web CT for non-distributed learning users. It is anticipated that usage will only increase, so they met with the Library and came to an agreement with them that the Librarians, who are already assisting faculty, be trained in the use of Web CT so that they can assist faculty in putting their supplemental materials in that format.

Maurice Leatherbury commented that the Computing Center recently brought up two new web servers, SUN 450s, which is a step in the support of Web CT.

UNT Internet Connection

Bill Buntain stated that there have been several problems with the upgrade of the Internet connection, but they expect to have the 7.5 mb Internet connection in place within a week, with an upgrade to 9 mb following as soon as possible.

Kathleen Swigger reported problems with connecting to UNT through her Internet provider and stated her hope that the UNT Internet connection be improved first, before going ahead with any construction to provide for Internet 2. Bill Buntain replied that this should improve soon.

February 16, 1999

Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that they have been discussing the Microsoft Campus Agreement and the Computing Center will be making a decision soon. There is an attempt being made to get approval from the Student Association to assess an increase in the technology fee in order for students to be included in the Campus Agreement. Approval was not received in time to present the fee increase to the Board of Regents at its recent meeting. If approved by the Student Association, the fee increase of approximately \$20.00 per year will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at its next meeting. UNT can go ahead with the Campus Agreement without the student inclusion and add them later.

Maurice reported that \$145,000 was spent in the last calendar year on products that will be covered under the new Campus Agreement and another \$7,000 on products that will not be covered. For UNT to get into the Campus Agreement, based upon headcount of faculty/staff, it will cost roughly \$105-115,000. The Campus Agreement provides a one-year license to use the software and is extended to all Office products, upgrade to Win NT, Windows 98, FrontPage and the Visual Studio. The Agreement also grants the right to distribute the products for home use.

There is still a question as to whether it is better to enter into this contract for a lease of the software, as opposed to owning the software, as we currently do under the Microsoft Select Agreement. There was some discussion about this question. Maurice explained that the Computing Center believes it can fund the Campus Agreement in this fiscal year; however, the cost of the Campus Agreement next year may have to be paid for by departmental allocations based on head-count in departments.

Maurice suggested that it would most likely not cost departments any more than they are paying currently. Distribution to students would be by CD check-out in the Library, if and when they are added to the contract. Maurice stated that the DCSMT recommends going ahead with the Campus Agreement because Microsoft is constantly coming out with new products and upgrades. Maurice said when the decision is finally made about how to fund the new Campus Agreement he will contact Deans to let them know.

After the discussion, the Chair asked for a sense of the body. The Council had a split vote with a simple majority supporting the DCSMT's recommendation.

Year 2000 Remediation Project

Coy Hoggard reported for the Year 2000 Remediation project that integrated systems testing has been completed of the more critical applications with the system set to current date. Future date testing has been delayed until this week due to problems with some Software AG products. It is hoped that the testing will be completed sufficiently to put the converted applications and platform software into production during Spring Break. Problems have arisen with the voice response system because the vendor will not certify their equipment as Y2K compliant, so the Computing Center is having to look at replacement of the system.

Instruction Program Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Instruction Program Group, in Jenny Jopling's absence. Maurice stated that he has conducted a survey of departments to determine the need for computer classrooms. Responses from 23 departments indicate a significant need for computer classrooms. These departments did not indicate much of a need for computer-based testing, however. Some Network Managers will be discussing how to establish more computer classrooms.

Communications Program Group

Since Bill Buntain was not present to report for the Communications Program Group, the committee minutes were distributed as well as a report on remote access facilities and speed. Robert Pierce reported that Paul Schlieve is the new Chair of the Communications Program Group, and that he is the Vice-Chair.

Administrative Program Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the Administrative Program Group that it has met with the AIS Users' Group and the SIMS group to work on the integrated system testing of the remediated Y2K applications and will continue that testing for the next month or so.

Research Program Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Research Program Group that there has been email discussion of the Internet2 proposal which was completed by the submission deadline. Maurice also reported that Dr. Hurley has signed the application for membership in Internet2; which brings the total Texas university members to 7; 4 of which are connected to a Gigapop. Apparently membership is by campus, not by university system.

Standards & Cooperation Program Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Standards & Cooperation Program Group that in their recent meeting she was elected the new Chair. They will meet again on March 11th and decide what projects to address.

Distributed Learning Team

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Distributed Learning Team that the new university-level approval process for distributed learning (50% or greater web-based or videoconference) courses and programs is official. Courses will be approved at the Vice President for Academic Affairs level and programs at the Executive Vice President level. Departments should allow about 4 months for the course approval process, and 9 months for program approval. Information about this is posted at www.unt.edu/cdl under the Approval Procedure link. In addition, Patrick reported that the distributed learning funding model has been approved and information distributed to departments through the deans.

Teaching with Technology Grants

Maurice announced that yesterday was the deadline for the Teaching with Technology Grant proposals; he has received 27 applications for \$174,000. There is only \$100,000 available to award, so the review committee will be looking at the proposals and hopefully announce the proposal awards at Spring Break.

Dorm Wiring

Maurice also announced that the Board of Regents approved a bond issue which will include campus-wide data infrastructure upgrade and the wiring of the dorms. Bill Buntain anticipates that half of the dorms can be wired by next Fall, and the rest wired by Spring of 2000.

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. An exception to that schedule occurred in March of 1999 when it met on the second Tuesday to accommodate the Spring Break schedule.

All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Patrick Dunn**, Telecommunications student assistant (part-time).
- **Lisa Bruni**, Campus Information Operator.
- **Gary Primeaux**, Telecommunications Specialist.
- **Ken Hoskins**, part-time Helpdesk Consultant. Ken has been here since the beginning of the semester, but we failed to mention his employment.

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Cynthia Miller**, Systems Programmer in Mainframe Technical Services' IBM Operating Systems Software Support.
- **David Wright**, Data Communications Technician (part-time).

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By [Randal Milholland](#), Documentation Assistant



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Campus Computing News

By [Dr. Maurice Leatherbury](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing

UNT is now officially an Internet 2 Member

We were formally notified on February 25, 1999, that UNT's application for membership in UCAID was approved. UCAID is the organization that manages membership in Internet 2 and you can now find us listed with the other 145 members at [UCAID's membership site](#).

\$1.5M Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Grant

The [Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund](#) was established by the legislature in 1995 to disburse \$150M a year for ten years to public schools, not-for-profit health care institutions, public libraries, and higher education institutions in Texas. TIF awarded its first grant in 1997 and to date has dispensed \$203M to over 2,500 institutions in Texas. On February 24th, we were notified that UNT is eligible to request up to \$1,459,093 from a pool of \$29M that will be awarded to four-year state supported and independent Texas colleges and universities. The Strategic Planning Committee of the Information Resource Council has appointed a subcommittee that will present a list of campus-wide infrastructure needs to the full IRC at the March 9, 1999 meeting. Funds from the TIF grant are restricted to connecting the library and its services to the Internet, "within-the-walls" networking (i.e., building wiring) some campus-wide networking hardware, and distance education hardware. I will be coordinating the submission of the grant proposal, which is due in Austin on April 19th.

Administrative Mainframe System Will be Unavailable During Spring Break

This information should be of interest to you if you use the administrative mainframe computer system (for SIMS, NHRMIS, THRMIS, NOBIS, TOBIS, CEATS, etc.).

As a part of our continued efforts to make all our critical administrative systems "Y2K Ready," Administrative Computing staff plan to do a series of "platform" software migrations over the week of Spring break, beginning Sunday, March 14 after all end-of-week processing (including file/database backups) is completed. We are uncertain as to how long this software migration will take, but it's sure to take at least the first 3-4 days of the week. During the migration period, the system will be either unavailable or unstable (up and down).

If you would like to be notified when the system is available again for production use, you can notify Don Swatloski (either by GroupWise E-mail

or by phone at 565-4062), giving him your name and how you wish to be contacted (phone, E-mail, etc.). He will add you to his "to be contacted" list.

We regret any inconvenience that this activity may cause, but the spring break holiday offers the extended time-frame that we need to accomplish this with the least overall impact, so it's important that we take advantage of this opportunity.

Coy Hoggard
Sr. Director of Administrative Computing
940-565-3855

Computing Center HelpDesk Spring Break Hours

The Computing Center HelpDesk will be staffed by part-time staff the regular hours during Spring Break, with the exception of Saturday, March 13, 1999, when we will be closed. Office location: ISB 119; Phone: 940-565-2324

Regular hours include 8am-8pm Monday through Friday (walk-in and phone support), Saturday 9-noon (walk-in and phone), noon-5pm (phone support only), and Sunday 5pm-10pm (phone support only).

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Student E-mail Server Move Postponed

By [Dr. Ty Young](#), UNIX Systems Administrator

We reported in last month's [Benchmarks Online](#) that the Computing Center's Academic Computing Services UNIX group would be migrating all E-mail accounts (including all mail folders and inboxes) over to a faster and more powerful system in the latter part of February. Unfortunately the best laid plans of mice, men, and the UNIX Services group went awry.

What went wrong?

The preliminary information we received from Execmail, the vendor of the mail server software, indicated that the migration should take about 12 hours total, for 19,000 accounts containing about 5MB each of mail.

What we found out, however, was that they were **wrong**. Our calculations indicated something more on the order of 29 **days**. Not wanting to withhold E-mail from 19000 users for a month, we're re-scheduling this process to complete it over a period of a few weeks.

What Next?

We've elected to re-schedule the migration of mailboxes (Inboxes and mail folders) from Jove onto the new server for a later date -- actually, several later dates, over the course of a couple of weeks. Mail delivery resumed on Jove, and all mail that was delivered to Venus was restored to inboxes on Jove.

We will draft a schedule and then proceed with the migration, probably in segments so as to affect bunches of users over a shorter period of time (rather than the process we started originally.) Check [Jove System News](#) for the latest information on this topic.

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Student Computing Forum

By [Wil Clark](#), ACS General Access Lab Manager

The General Access Lab Managers Committee will hold its first Student Computing Forum Tuesday, April 6, 1999. The forum will create another venue for students to provide input on lab policies and procedures. It will also provide an additional tool for managers to ensure that the labs are meeting the academic computing needs of UNT students. The forum will provide another needs assessment tool beyond the traditional suggestion box and semester lab surveys.

Two Main Goals

The student forum has two main goals. One is to define the purpose of General Access Labs. The other goal is to discover what student academic computing needs are not being met by the labs. Students will also be able to provide input on a proposal for extending the Microsoft Campus License Agreement to allow students access to some Microsoft products for personal computers.

Attend and be Heard

All students are encouraged to attend and provide input to shape the future of the General Access Labs. Instructors are encouraged to announce this to all their classes.

The forum will be **Tuesday, April 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Union room 411**. For further information contact me at (940) 565-4808 or send mail to wilc@unt.edu.

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GroupWise 5.2: When You're Away

By [Pat Evans](#), Campus Wide Networks Computer Support Specialist

This is the third in a series of educational and informational GroupWise articles.

Did you know you can access your GroupWise mail from anywhere in the world? If you answered "yes," you're right — but I suspect most of you said "no." Well, the bottom line is "yes"; you can access GroupWise from just about anywhere. Whether you are trying to access from home, or from your beachfront room in Cancun, you can always stay in touch with the pulse of the office with little more than the click of a mouse.

There are two ways to access your GroupWise mail: GroupWise Web Access and GroupWise over IP (IP stands for Internet Protocol).

GroupWise Web

This is by far the easiest way to access your GroupWise account. If you have Internet access with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) or a dial-up account with the University, you're already 90% connected. Before we get started, let's take care of one thing in GroupWise while we're still at work — your password.

Setting your password

By default, GroupWise doesn't require a password for PC users when they launch GroupWise. You can however create a separate password for GroupWise if you choose to add an additional layer of security, or if you plan on using one of the Remote Access options. (If you are a Macintosh user using GroupWise, you can skip this section; you've already set a password).

To set a password once you've launched GroupWise:

1. From the toolbar menu, choose **T**ools, **O**ptions, and double-click Security.
2. On the Password tab, enter your password in the **N**ew Password box. Reenter your password in the **C**onfirm new password box.
3. You may wish to place a check mark in the box next to **R**emember password. (This is only an option for PC users. Mac users will have to enter in their password every time they log in).
4. Click OK.

That's it. Now you are ready to access your GroupWise via Web Access!

Accessing GroupWise Web

Once you've launched a dial-up networking connection to either your ISP or to the University dial-up, you've already done the hardest part of the accessing your mail. Using either Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator as your web browser (both work great), simply do the following:

1. In the box titled Address (for Internet Explorer) or Location (for Netscape Navigator), type <http://gww.unt.edu> and press enter.
2. This will bring you to the welcome screen. Click on the link, [GroupWise 5.2](#).(Note: If you encounter any problems, read the [WebAccess FAQ](#).)
3. Enter in your name in the Name field, and then enter in your GroupWise password in the Password field.
4. Click Login. (Note: If you are using an older Web browser that doesn't handle Java very well, you may wish to change the default Java-enhanced GroupWise WebAccess to the regular GroupWise WebAccess.)

Note: If your name is not unique in the GroupWise system, you may have to specify which GroupWise account you are logging in to. You do this by entering your post office, a period ("."), and your user ID...e.g. "DSA.Jdoe". If this fails, try using your domain, your post office, and your user ID, separated by periods...e.g. "Admin.DSA.Jdoe". If this also fails, please contact your Network Administrator to determine your correct GroupWise login name.

As you can see, the overall functions are much the same as your GroupWise back at work, with the visual layout being a bit different.

Exiting GroupWise Web

Once you are ready to exit GroupWise WebAccess, simply click the Exit button on the WebAccess toolbar.

GroupWise over IP

The two biggest reasons why some people wish to use GroupWise over IP instead of GroupWise WebAccess is the interface — the appearance of GroupWise — and the complete functionality that the GroupWise client has over WebAccess. An example of this functionality difference is the Trash. With Web Access, you can delete a mail message, but once deleted, it is permanently gone...with GroupWise over IP, you still can undelete a deleted message. Also, GroupWise over IP allows you access to your personal address book; something you can't do with WebAccess.

What's a client? Simply put, a client is a dependant application that accesses databases. Better yet, it is the exact same GroupWise program you have installed on your computer at work. It looks the same, acts the same, feels the same, and does all the same things.

Getting the GroupWise client

To borrow a copy of the installation media, contact John Bradley at 565-4830, and ask to sign out a copy. Once the media is checked out, you can then pick it up at the Computing Center Helpdesk, Room 119 of the Computing Center (located in the Information Sciences Building).

Installation

Installation instructions are included in the front jewel case cover. The client will install on Windows 95/98/NT, Windows 3.x, and on Macintosh computers.

To install the client on a typical **Windows 95** PC:

1. Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. Choose **RUN** from the **Start** menu.
3. Type **D:\Win32\Setup** (where "D" is the letter of your CD-ROM drive).
4. Choose **Standard Install** when prompted.

If you also wish to install the Enhancement Pack, run **D:\GWMEP**.

To install the client on a **Windows 3.x** PC:

1. Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. From the **File** menus of **Program Manager**, choose **Run**.
3. In the Command Line, type **D:\Win16\Setup** (where "D" is the letter of your CD-ROM drive).
4. Choose **Standard Install** when prompted.

And if you wish to install the GroupWise client on a **Macintosh**:

1. Insert the CD into the CD-ROM drive.
2. Run **GroupWise 5 Installer**.

When GroupWise is run for the first time, it will prompt you for some host information. On the TCP/IP (or Client/Server on Macintosh) tab, enter **gw1.unt.edu** as the address and leave the port set to **0**. In the USER ID and PASSWORD boxes, enter your GroupWise username and password.

For installation, connectivity or usage questions, please call the Computing Center Helpdesk at 565-2324.

Running GroupWise over IP

To use your GroupWise, launch a dial-up networking connection to your ISP or to your University dial-up access account. Then just double-click the GroupWise icon located on your desktop. As you can see, the GroupWise environment is just like that which you use at work.

The future of Remote Access

The future of remote access looks good for years to come. With the roll-out of GroupWise 5.5 later this spring, and the ever-increasing use of the Internet as a daily part of our lives, you'll see some improvements to GroupWise WebAccess almost immediately. While all the same functionality remains, additional features...such as retrieving deleted items from trash, will make their appearance.

Personal Digital Assistants (Palm Pilot and Palm PC's) will also aid to this expansion of user access to mail — both at home and at work.

Whatever your reasons...being Master of the Universe or quietly staying in touch...from wherever you may be...home or your beachfront hotel room, GroupWise can now and for years to come, allow you to always stay in touch. As the old joke goes: Are you a Type A personality? You want to be.

Other Resources

If you'd like to learn more about GroupWise and the many features it provides, please visit the following URL's:

- GroupWise End User and Web Access FAQ's: www.unt.edu/cwn
- Cool Solutions Magazine: www.gwmag.com
- and please take advantage of the GroupWise Guides provided under the Help Menu within GroupWise.

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Computer Virus News

By [Wil Clark](#), ACS General Access Lab Manager and Campus Virus Guru

Automated Updates Coming Soon

Have you thought much about computer viruses lately? Your answer is probably "no." Computer viruses are like human viruses, we typically do not think about them until we have one. Well, Academic Computing Services is working toward a solution that will give you up to date virus protection but allow you to not think about it that much. This semester we are implementing a system that allows the virus protection software on your computer to check for updates and upgrades automatically.

Once the system is complete, your computer will be able to check for updates and install them. Then you will not need to worry about checking for updates. Some people do not check for updates until they have been infected with a virus. This new system will reduce the chances that your computer is infected with a virus that the virus software does not know about.

Top Ten Viruses

While we are talking about viruses, you may find this interesting. The box on the left is the McAfee [Virus Information Library](#) top 10 viruses list for this month. These are the 10 most common computer viruses found in the wild.

As you might expect some of these viruses have been found on UNT computers. The important thing to remember about viruses and virus protection is that you must keep your virus detection software up to date. You can access licensed virus scanners from the [UNT virus web site](#).

TOP VIRUSES	
1.	Cap
2.	Ethan
3.	Marker
4.	Ataka
5.	Picture
6.	W32/Ska
7.	Laroux
8.	Cih Spacefiller
9.	Class
10.	Brenda

Virus Highlight: Joke programs

One method of computer virus infection is "joke" programs. You have probably received some of these through E-mail from a friend. Most joke programs are harmless, but the the number of them and the frequency that one receives them may cause a lapse in good computing practice. You should always be suspicious of any file you receive. Period. Scan it just to be sure.

Two recent joke programs are Ultra Cool and Wobbling. Ultra Cool simulates a hard disk format. That is enough to cause a little panic. Wobbling makes your windows wobble. Both programs are harmless but their behavior is alarming.

Check out Network Associate's [AVERT Virus Alerts](#) page for information on new viruses and joke programs.

Virus Safety Tip: Scheduled Scanning

You can schedule your virus protection software to scan your computer periodically. Choose a time of day that your computer will be on but you will not be using it. Lunch time is my choice. Then just follow the steps for your computer:

McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95/98

We will schedule a lunch time scan of a computer. This example assumes you have version 4.0.1 of McAfee VirusScan. Contact your network administrator or download the program from UNT's [virus software distribution site](#) if you need this version.

1. **Launch McAfee VirusScan Scheduler** -- Click on Start/ Programs/ McAfee VirusScan/ McAfee VirusScan Scheduler
2. **Create a new task** -- Click on Task/ New Task
3. **Type a Description** -- Type "Lunchtime Scan" for example
4. **Configure the scan task to start automatically** - Click Configure..., Check "Start automatically" in the "What to scan" section, Click OK
5. **Schedule the task** -- Click "Schedule" tab
 1. Enable the task -- Check "Enable"
 2. Choose a repeat period -- Check "Daily" for example in the "Run" section
 3. Choose a time to begin -- Type 12:10 in the "Start at" section
 4. Choose days to scan -- Check each day that you want to perform the scan
6. **Accept the new task** -- Click OK to place the task in the scheduler

There are many other options you can configure for a task. The default choices are good for our example. Some options may be preset and locked by your system administrator. You can explore the other configuration options to see if they will be of use to you.

Virex for Macintosh

We will schedule a lunch time scan of a computer. This example assumes you have version 5.9.1 of Dr. Solomon's Virex. Contact your network administrator or download the program from UNT's [virus software distribution site](#) if you need this version.

1. **Launch Virex Control Panel** -- Click on Apple Menu/ Control Panels/ Virex Control Panel
2. **Open Virex Preferences** -- Click "Preferences..."

3. **Go to Scheduling Section** -- Scroll through icons in the left section of the Virex Control Panel Preferences and Click on "Scheduling"
4. **Enable Scheduling** -- Check "Schedule Scan For:"
5. **Scan all local volumes** -- Check "All Local Volumes"
6. **Set the scan time** -- Adjust the time to 12:00 PM
7. **Set the scan to repeat daily** -- Adjust the "Repeating:" option to "Daily"
8. **Accept the new schedule** -- Click "Save"

There are other options you can configure for scheduling. The default choices are good for our example. Some options may be preset and locked by your system administrator. You can explore the other configuration options to see if they will be of use to you.

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Maximizing Your Hits

By [Sharon Marek](#), Central Web Support

UNT uses Netscape's Compass Server as our [search engine](#), and we index 42 UNT Web servers. These servers host official information - from the Colleges and Schools, Academic and Administrative Web sites. We don't index the personal pages at [people.unt.edu](#).

This search engine is case sensitive - so a search for "university of north texas" will get different results than a search for "University of North Texas." Consider providing key information on your Web pages in upper and lower case. UNT's search engine indexes the first 8192 bytes of each page it encounters. And while that is a lot of space, try to ensure that your most important information is included in that top 8192.

Meta* tags are indexed - so feel free to include keyword or description tags with searchable terms. But your best bet is still the title tag. This title doesn't appear on the Web page itself, but does appear at the top of the browser window. Here's an example title tag.

```
<title>University of North Texas: Web Site Search</title>
```

The Title is the Thing

The title of a Web page is the only part that's guaranteed to be indexed by every search engine -- and it's particularly important here. The title of your Web page actually represents your Web page in UNT's search engine. The contents of the title tag make up the hyperlink in the search results. And descriptive titles provide more information for the searchers. Pages without titles are represented by their URL.

If you have any questions about UNT's search engine, or you believe that your Web server is not being indexed, please contact me at marek@unt.edu.

*A good explanation of Meta tags and examples of their use can be found at [Search Engine Watch](#).

Search Feature Added to Benchmarks Web

In an effort to better facilitate your quest for information, we have added a text search feature to the [Back Issues](#) page. This search feature will only access items on the Benchmarks Web, which for now are current and back issues of *Benchmarks Online*. Send mail to lynch@unt.edu or call 940-565-4068 if you have questions or comments about this new feature.

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Cold Fusion Web Applications at UNT

By [Kenn Moffitt](#), Web Developer UNT Central Web Support

UNT CENTRAL Web SUPPORT has been creating true Web applications for departments using [Allaire's Cold Fusion Application Server](#) for over a year. The Cold Fusion Server allows direct connection to popular databases such as Microsoft Access, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, etc. In fact Cold Fusion can connect to any database that has an ODBC driver. The Cold Fusion Server can serve the database information to the Web quickly and allows update, insert, and delete database operations as well as dynamic querying of the database and standard data and text manipulation functions.

A Major Application

One of the major Cold Fusion Applications that Central Web Support has deployed in the last year is a 900 user lab registration system for the Physics Astronomy Department. The Astronomy Department offers 10 to 20 individual labs each semester per class and each of the required labs can meet up to 30 different times.

Since the labs and the times and dates of each lab's session vary, managing which students could enroll for specific labs and which students had scheduled individual sessions was difficult. Central Web Support created a Web based application with a Microsoft SQL backend to allow each of the students to log in to the system from a Web browser.

The student's ID and password are checked first by UNT's LDAP server. The UNT LDAP server verifies that the student is registered for the astronomy class and that the student is enrolled at UNT. After the student logs in successfully, the student is presented with a list of upcoming labs that they have already scheduled. Under this is a list of all of the remaining labs that the student needs to attend for the semester. The student can then choose the lab, date, and time that they want to schedule. The student can even choose to display a calendar that shows all of the labs that the student has scheduled for the month.

For the Astronomy Department staff and instructors that administer the system, there is a separate Web interface. The admin interface allows the administrator to grant a student access to the system, add a new lab, schedule the different times that a lab occurs, generate a roll of all of the students that have enrolled in a particular lab session, and take roll for the lab online. The administrative interface also allows the astronomy staff to send out a batch E-mail to all of the students in a lab or in a particular session. If a lab is deleted or modified, the system will also send out mail to all of the students affected informing the students of the change.

A Major Strength

The true strength of Cold Fusion developed Web applications is that anyone with Web access can use the Cold Fusion applications regardless of their computer platform or browser. All of the Cold Fusion functions are processed by the server first before being sent to the Web browser as standard html ensuring Web browser compatibility for all users.

If you have any questions about Cold Fusion, or you believe that you have an application that needs Cold Fusion, please contact me at moffitt@unt.edu.